



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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Board Moves to Form Permanent Oversight of Preserve

SAN BERNARDINO – On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors approved a formal application to create a single entity to permanently oversee the North Etiwanda Preserve, which encompasses 1,200 acres along the foothills between Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga.

The application to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) calls for the consolidation of two community service area (CSA) open space districts that were created to maintain the preserve using endowment funding. Since 1994, developers and public agencies have purchased land for the preserve as mitigation for other projects, such as the construction of the 210 Freeway. In addition, the entities set aside funding for maintenance of the mitigation lands.

If LAFCo approves the application, a single entity – CSA 120 – would be created to maintain the entire North Etiwanda Preserve. CSA 120 will continue maintaining land in the preserve even if it is annexed by the cities of Rancho Cucamonga or Fontana.

“In the long-term, CSA 120 will ensure consistent maintenance and management of the North Etiwanda Preserve by placing responsibility for the land under one umbrella,” Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane said. “By using a consistent approach, the County will be able to increase the size of the preserve and protect the sensitive and endangered plants and animals that live there.”

The Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Least Bell’s Vireo, San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat, and other threatened and endangered species frequent the Coastal Sage Scrub habitat within the North Etiwanda Preserve.

The consolidation would also ensure that the preserve continues to be overseen by the North Etiwanda Preserve Committee, which holds regular public meetings to get resident input on the preserve. The North Etiwanda Preserve contains a number of hiking trails that are open to the public for passive use.

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